दिसम्बर, 1983 में व्यापक योजना को अधिसूचित किया गया था जिसको इस समय कार्यान्वित किया जा रहा है।

Identification of Agro Climatic Zones

2735. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified the agro-climatic zones in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a need to adopt strategy for agricultural production agro-climatic zone-wise:

(d) if so, the steps going to be taken by Government in that regard during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(e) what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. For the purposes of Agricultural planning, the country has been delineated into 15 Agro—climatic Zones which are as follows:

1. Western Himalayan Region.
2. Eastern Himalayan Region.
3. Lower Gangetic Plain Region.
4. Middle Gangetic Plain Region.
5. Upper Gangetic Plain Region.
6. Trans—Genetic Plain Region.
7. Eastern-Plateau and Hills Region.
8. Central Plateau and Hills Region.
9. Western Plateau and Hill Region.
10. Southern Plateau and Hills Region.
11. East Coast Plains and Hills Region.
12. West Coast Plain and Ghats Region.
13. Gujarat Plain and Hills Region.
14. Western Dry Region.
15. Island Region.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The details are as follows:

(i) A Project on Agricultural Planning based on Agroclimatic Regions for the formulation of 8th Plan has been taken up by the Planning Commission.

(ii) Planning teams have been set up for each of the 15 identified agro-climatic regions by the Planning Commission, which is being guided by the High Powered Centre Committee under the Chairmanship of Member Agriculture Planning Commission.

(iii) A Central Project Cell has been set up to provide technical back-up to 15 Regional Planning Teams by the Planning Commission.

(iv) For ensuring proper linkages between the work of various Zonal Planning Teams, a Liaison Group has also been set up in the Planning Commission.

Demand of some Commonly used Steel Items

2736. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a wide gap between the supply and domestic demand of some commonly used steel items;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to introduce a new scheme to be run on a no-profit no-loss basis to meet the entire demand of commonly used items of steel; and

(d) if so, whether that scheme has been launched?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) and (b) In respect of items like Pig Iron, Hot Rolled Coils/Sheets and Cold Rolled Coils/ Sheets, there is a gap between supply and domestic demand. This is because the indigenous production has not yet caught up with the demand in the country.

(c) During the year 1988-89, a scheme was introduced under which SAIL is supplying imported Hot Rolled Coils and Pig Iron on' no profit no loss' basis to meet the demand of consumers.

(d) Does not arise.

Iron ore Mines in Orissa

2737. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a need to develop the iron-ore mines in Orissa;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether any new system is proposed to be adopted for the development of iron-ore mines in that State and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) and (b) Development of iron ore mines in Orissa is directly linked to orders for export of iron ore through Paradip Port. Exports through Paradip have declined mainly due to inadequate port facilities. Studies have already been taken up for improving these port facilities and also for improvement of complementary infra-structure facilities.

(c) No, Sir

(d) Does not arise.

Implementation of Research and Development Projects

2738. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Steel Authority of India is laying emphasis on the implementation of Research and Development projects;

(b) if so, how many Research and Development projects have been completed by SAIL so far;

(c) how many projects have been implemented in the steel plants by the Research and Development wing of SAIL and

(d) the details of all these projects undertaken by the Research and Development wing of SAIL during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Research and Development Centre of SAIL has completed 363 projects till 1-1-89.

(c) So for 105 projects have been implemented in the SAIL plants.

(d) Details of some of the important projects implemented/under implementation are as follows:—

(i) Introduction of Group wise crushing of coal at Bokaro Steel Plant has resulted in higher coke strength.

(ii) By reducing the oversize percentage of coke being charged in the Blast Furnace at Bhilai Steel Plant, there has been increase in productivity and decline in coke rate.

(iii) Introduction of Air injection technique in Open hearth furnaces at IISCO, Burnpur has resulted in increased yield of steel.

(iv) Introduction of SAIL combined blowing technology at Bokaro